

Report of the Executive Secretary of N. J. Urban League for June 1938

One very important feature of the League's work during the past month has been to stimulate a new interest of persons who formerly were active in making our programs a success. It is gratifying to report that attempts have not been futile.

As in May, much of the effort of the Secretary during the month was given to raising funds for the remainder of the year's work. To this end we conducted a campaign for \$3000 in the two weeks of June 15-30. It was opened by Miss Hattie H. Burroughs, a member of the Executive Board of the National Urban League, on Sunday afternoon June 15. While scarcely more than one fourth of the \$3000 has been reported on to date, the extremely encouraging fact is that almost all of it was given by Colored people, a single check for \$50 being sent by Dr. W. C. Alexander of our Board. There is, I believe, enough in sight to make the \$1500 total, the getting of which will insure the conditional \$1000.

Other activities of the League

EMPLOYMENT:- I feel that ~~there~~ is a concern of great moment to us just now. The failure of the recent Congress to appropriate funds for the continuation of the U. S. Employment Service creates a very difficult situation so far as the ordinary workman, the nation over, is concerned; and an increasingly difficult problem as relates to Negroes. While the Municipal Employment Service will be continued here, there will be an insufficient force to handle the applicants, and as there is no Negro worker there for either men or women, the particular interest in them is likely to be lacking. The recent resolutions adopted by the American Federation of Labor admitting Negro workers to unions on the same terms with whites is another matter of extraordinary importance to us particularly when it is remembered that it has been the National Urban League which was chiefly responsible for the petitions sent to the A. F. and L. to bring about a change in their policy as effecting colored workers. In this matter of employment them, three items to be discussed are:-

- (1) What shall we do to meet the situation created by the failure of Congress to appropriate funds?
- (2) What action shall be taken as regards the co-ordination plan with the government?
- (3) What stand shall we take as regards the A. F. & L.'s new resolution?

On this last question the sincerity of the A. F. & L., the attitude of Negroes, and the educating of them to certain standards of efficiency should claim our attention.

RECREATION:- Thru the generosity of Mr. Robertson S. Ward of the General Leather Company, the League was given the use of a plot of ground on the corner of Central Ave. and Look Street to be used as a play-ground. Several clubs are now considering, making tennis courts on the plot.

For recreational purposes the building has been used on a number of occasions, two particularly successful entertainments being given by the Red Cross and the Selika Clubs respectively.

MEETING: Up to date, 11 children have been given tickets for the Fresh Air Outing to Camp Newark. In some cases it was necessary, because of the health of the child, to get permission for it to have the advantage of an extended stay; this was done. In a conference with Dr. Julius Levy of the Dept. of Child Hygiene, I was informed that with our recommendation, there is the possibility of securing positions for other colored nurses in various parts of the State. Attention will be given to this matter.

INVESTIGATION:-An investigation of Negroes in business in Newark has been conducted and when results are worked out, an attempt will be made to get it published in the daily papers. The results of a cursory investigation of Negro skilled workers in the shipyards here were used at the recent conference of the N.A.A.C.P. in Cleveland.

CASE WORK:- Four cases, all of which were rather complicated have come to us this month. One was desertion, two accident to head of family, and one, a very involved situation in the family because of the death of the mother, leaving four small children to be cared for by a none too industrious father.

CONFERENCE:- The important conference of the month was the National Conference for Social Work, held in Atlantic City the week of June 1-8. The Secretary had an opportunity to present our work. His speech has been mailed to all the members of the Board. The fairness of the spirit of the Committee on the programs of the Conference should be commented upon, for the large place given to the discussion of the Negro. In each day's program he was interwoven in some way, and a very happy sign it was to note that the old reservations from free discussion were passing away, that persons interested in us were beginning to ask us what steps should be taken to make our committee more wholesome, instead of merely imposing things whether wise or unwise, upon us as has often been done in the past; and again the considerably large number of colored social workers from all over the country means a new departure well worth note.

In concluding this report, may I again remind the Board that I do not regard the question of getting money, our main problem. The one big thing facing us is the boosting of the part of all of us, the organization so as people may know we have a program to carry out.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Ash  
Executive Secretary.